

Application No. 09/848,777
Filed: May 4, 2001
TC Art Unit: 1641
Confirmation No.: 6632

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-2 and 4-5, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 3, 6-7, 10-16 and 30 so that the claims
in the application read as follows:

1-2 (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The liquid composition of claim 16,
wherein said biomolecule is a biopolymer.

4-5 (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The liquid composition of claim 16,
wherein said biomolecules are uniformly distributed throughout
said colloidal suspension.

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7. (Currently Amended) The liquid composition of claim 16,
wherein more than one species of biomolecule is distributed
throughout said colloidal suspension and bound to said matrix
material particles.

8. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 7, wherein said
more than one species of biomolecule comprise two or more
different biomolecule probes.

Application No. 09/848,777

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TC Art Unit: 1641

Confirmation No.: 6632

9. (Previously Presented) The liquid composition of claim 7, wherein said more than one species of biomolecule comprise one or more biomolecule probes and a blocking biomolecule, wherein said blocking biomolecule blocks sites on said biomolecule-binding matrix material not occupied by said one or more biomolecule probes.

10. (Currently Amended) The liquid composition of claim ±16, wherein said binding of said biomolecules is covalent binding.

11. (Currently Amended) The liquid composition of claim ±16, wherein said binding of said biomolecules is non-covalent binding.

12. (Currently Amended) The liquid composition of claim ±16, wherein said binding of said biomolecules is electrostatic binding.

C 13. (Currently Amended) The liquid composition of claim ±16, wherein said binding of said biomolecules is adsorption onto a surface of said matrix material particles.

14. (Currently Amended) The liquid composition of claim ±16, wherein a first reference dye is distributed throughout said colloidal suspension and wherein a concentration of said first reference dye has a known quantitative relationship with a concentration of said biomolecule-binding matrix material.

Application No. 09/848,777

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Confirmation No.: 6632

15. (Currently Amended) The liquid composition of claim ~~15~~16, wherein a second reference dye is distributed throughout said colloidal suspension and wherein a concentration of said second reference dye has a known quantitative relationship with said biomolecule.

16. (Currently Amended) A liquid composition comprising a colloidal suspension of a biomolecule-binding matrix material dispersed in a liquid, wherein particles of said matrix material in said colloidal suspension are of a defined particle size and wherein said biomolecule-binding matrix material is nitrocellulose, polyvinyl difluoride or activated nylon; and replicate copies of a biomolecule, wherein said biomolecules are distributed throughout said colloidal suspension and are bound to said matrix material particles and wherein said biomolecule is a protein or oligopeptide.

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17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The liquid composition of claim 16, wherein a reference dye is distributed throughout said colloidal suspension and wherein a concentration of said reference dye has a known quantitative relationship with a concentration of said biomolecule-binding matrix material.

19. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 16, wherein said particles of matrix material have a diameter of less than 1 μm .

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20. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 16, wherein said particles of matrix material have a diameter of less than 0.5 μm .

21. (Original) The liquid composition of claim 16, wherein said particles of matrix material have a diameter of less than 0.25 μm .

22-29 (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A powder of microfine particles, said powder comprising an aliquot of the liquid composition of ~~claim 1~~ ~~or~~ claim 16 from which liquid has been removed.

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Cont
31. (Original) The powder of claim 30, wherein said particles have a diameter of less than 10 μm .

32. (Original) The powder of claim 30, wherein said particles have a diameter of between 100 and 500 nm.

33-49 (Canceled)